

Gulf of Mexico Hurricane Disaster 1992-1995

Date of Declaration/Determination: August 2, 1995

Hurricanes, including Hurricane Andrew, impacted the Gulf of Mexico from August 1992 through December 1995.

Location: Gulf of Mexico region

Description/Cause: Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Tropical Storms Alberto and Beryl in 1994, and Hurricanes Allison, Erin and Opal in 1996. Flooding from these storms resulted in hypoxic coastal waters and debris-littered fishing grounds. The storms also damaged nearshore fisheries habitat. Substantial economic damage and social disruption resulted from the storms' impacts.

Authority: Section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

Appropriation: FY 1995--\$15 million

(Up to) \$5 million--compensate fishermen for
uninsured vessel or gear damage or loss
\$10 million--grants to Gulf States

Assistance Provided:

Funds were appropriated in advance of NMFS determining these events constituted a fishery resource disaster under Section 308(d).

NMFS received 429 applications requesting about \$3.3 million in compensation. Of these, 270 were approved for compensation totaling about \$1.45 million. NMFS used \$100 K to administer the program.

The remaining funds were added to the initial grant awards to the Gulf States for research and habitat restoration. One of these grants involved cooperative efforts with fishermen--Louisiana involved fishermen in a monitoring program, using logbooks, to determine the impacts of adverse environmental conditions on fishing patterns and subsequent income of commercial fishermen and charterboat operators.

Texas used their grant of \$1.4 million to conduct a license buyback program in their inshore shrimp fishery. The Texas program bought back 310 licenses at an average of about \$4500

each.